

1508/568⁵
SOME SCATTERED
P I E C E S
UPON
AGRICULTURE,
AND THE
Improvement of Husbandry,

Which were lately

Published in the DUBLIN JOURNAL,

Collected and Inscribed to the

DUBLIN SOCIETY.

With some few ALTERATIONS and ADDITIONS.

By GORGES E. HOWARD,
A MEMBER.

That Art is most worthy to be approved of by all Wise
Men, which brings the greatest Convenience and Profit
to the State. XENOPH. OECON. Ch. 15.

Whilst Agriculture continues in good Health, every other
Art grows strong and flourishing. *Ibid.*

D U B L I N:

Printed for ELIZABETH LYNCH, in *Skinner-Row.*

M,DCC,LXX.





Advertisement.

April 26th, 1770.

AFTER the following Pamphlet upon Husbandry had been given to be printed, the Letter signed *Hibernia* in the Freeman's Journal of the 21st Instant, in Answer to a Part thereof was published, which is so full of Wrath, Abuse and most unjust Insinuations (a most extraordinary Method of reasoning) that I am more confirmed than ever in the Opinion which several have done me the Honour to say they have of the Merit of my Letters; but they will speak for themselves.

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HIBERNIA's

HIBERNIA's Letter was offered to several of the News-Paper Printers in Dublin, with a tempting Reward to print it, but it was refused. Now, can it be properly called the *Liberty of the Press*, to publish whatever is offered, however false, or scandalous, without a Possibility of discovering either the Author, the Publisher, or the Shop from whence it issues? Is not this a ~~Disgrace~~ to Humanity? Is it agreeable to Christian Charity? Is it not a Reproach to the Legislature? And does it not call loudly for Redress? For, if in a Society, there be any Injury to which any of its Members are subject, which there is no Law either to prevent, remedy, or punish, is not that Society so far in a State of Nature, and every Person in it reduced to the terrible Necessity of protecting and righting himself?—Can any Injury then be more violent than the Assassination of private Characters? And is not this the Case every Day, even of the most virtuous? Nay of Female Innocence?—So that the Person who walked from his House in the Morning in Happiness, and
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in the full Esteem of Mankind, shall have his fair Repute assailed with Scandal and Falshood, or return Home an Object of Sport and Ridicule, to the Envy, Malice, and Folly of the Many.

BUT who are they, who dare thus act against the Peace and Order of Society? The chief of them by all Accounts a Set of sorry, needy Wretches, to procure a Livelyhood, and indulge a wicked Spirit; whose Meanness only, is what saves them (such as are known) from the Hand of Violence which they are daily provoking, as they are defying the Laws; and whom a numberless Detections of Falshoods do but make more hardy; but this, it seems, is *Liberty*.

O! WHAT a Heart must that Man have, who would publish a Syllable against the private Character of his Neighbour, although it were Truth! Or would thus stab in the dark even his Enemy? For to the Mind which has not Fortitude to bear such Things, and to despise them, as those Reptiles do the Laws, a Town besieged,

besieged, or with the Pestilence in it, would be a Situation far less dreadful. In short, such a *masked Battery* is not suffered in any other Country in the World ; No,—not even in the *Land of Liberty*.

To



To the R E A D E R,

I HAVE collected the following Letters, and published them with the Additions I have made thereto, at the Instance of several who had read them in the Dublin Journal, and did me the Honour to say they wished to have them in a Pamphlet.

I SHALL be extremely happy if they shall be approved of, and more especially by that honourable Body to whom this Kingdom is so much indebted for Improvements of every Kind, that a Person, who had not seen it for twenty Years, were he to see it this Day would hardly know it to be the same Country, and of whom, since I am led to speak, I think it is incumbent on me to pay that Tribute of

Acknowledgment and Praise which is so justly due to those two Gentlemen of its present most worthy Vice-Presidents, Mr. Morres, and Mr. Le Hunte, to whose unwearied Attention to this most useful Institution for several Years, their extensive Knowledge in its important Business, and their great Candour, Integrity and Justice in this honourable Office, (without which their Operations would be a Mischief instead of a Benefit to the Community) besides the Advantage which the Society have on many Occasions, from the Knowledge which these two Gentlemen have in the Laws, it is greatly owing, that the Kingdom is growing every Day, not only in the Improvement of Agriculture, that primary Object of all, but also of its Manufactures and Arts, to such a Degree, that it is an Honour to be a Member of the Society, as its successful Efforts are not only highly esteemed, but many of them adopted by some of the principal Nations of Europe.

FROM these Considerations, I often feel Uneasiness at the Thoughts of losing
either

either of these Gentlemen, not that I would be understood to derogate in the least from the Merit of any other Person whatsoever, who also fills this Office; or that several others of the present Members of the Society, may not be to the full as capable of filling it, would they give the same Attention to it, as these Gentlemen have never failed to do, and take the same Pains for the Acquisition of Knowledge; and I have a singular Pleasure in observing of late, a most laudable Emulation in many of the Members of the Society, to understand the various and most interesting Businesses, on which they are to judge and determine.

HOWEVER, although Practice and Experience may do Abundance, yet, as Inspiration is not very common among us, without some Reading, their Knowledge in several Cases, can be only superficial, and of Course imperfect. The Principles of Agriculture, Manufactures, Trade and Commerce, as also of some of the Arts and Sciences, must be studied and well understood, that the Society may be able
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at all Times sufficiently to judge what Things are, and what are not, for the Benefit of the Kingdom, and to which the Preference should be given in their Encouragements; for these Purposes, I would presume to recommend to them the following Authors; *Hart's Essay on Husbandry*; *The Farmer's Letters to the People of England*; *Lisle's Husbandry*; *Dubamel's Husbandry*; *And the Compleat Body of Husbandry*; *The Present State of France*; *Gee, Child, Tucker, Decker, Caray, and Postlethwait on Trade*; *Wood's Survey on Trade*, and *Kippax on Commerce*.

It was owing to this Knowledge in some of the Members of the Society, that the Petition of the Manufacturers of a certain Commodity, for an Application to be made by the Society to Parliament, to lay a further Duty upon the Importation of it from Foreign Countries, was rejected; it having been very properly considered, that where a Manufacture is in its Infancy in a Kingdom, and that there is not near sufficient of it for its own Consumption, as then appeared to be the Case, as also, that what was im-
ported

ported was far better, and sold much cheaper, notwithstanding the Duty then on it, and all the other Charges upon Importation, than that of the same Kind, which had been manufactured here; I say, when all these Matters were considered, together with the Mischiefs of encreasing Duties in general, it was very justly determined that such an additional Duty might amount almost to a Prohibition, and that instead of encouraging the Manufacture here, it would be the Means of destroying it, and greatly injuring the Publick by placing them absolutely in the Power of the Manufacturers, and a Monopoly; besides, that to give Umbrage to other Nations, with whom we are in Friendship, without any Advantage to us, would not be prudent.

BUT this Knowledge will ever be most essentially necessary in a higher Assembly; to frustrate the destructive Schemes of those, who would, for private Interest, fleece the Publick, (as has been too often the Case, even under the specious Appearance of Patriotism) and whose Success, I

am

am convinced, is, in the general, as much, if not more, owing to the Ignorance in Numbers of the Measure proposed, than the benign Indulgence of Friends.

THEN, besides that the Members of the Society are improving every Day in the Knowledge of Agriculture, Manufactures, Trade and Commerce, Arts and Sciences. Their Room is become a School for speaking in Publick; and as several of their Rules and Orders for the Regulation of their Proceedings, and the Conduct of the Members, are pretty much the same, with those of the House of Commons in the like Cases, and as most of the Matters which are debated on in the Society, may, nay, must be frequently very principal Objects also for the Consideration of the Legislature, therefore, the Knowledge acquired in the Society may, in a very short Time, be of infinite real Advantage to the Kingdom, not only in the preventing of Jobs (as I beforementioned) but also in the promoting of beneficial Laws, and forming them with Propriety and Accuracy (a Matter

Matter ever to be wished for) more so perhaps in a single Session, than might arise in Centuries from the political Wrangles of the ambitious, vain, or selfish, by which the Time that is due to the Service of the Publick, hath been for many Years past, in both Kingdoms, as improperly, as unjustly, engrossed and abused.

BUT however skilful they may in Time become in these Matters, yet, on all Questions relative to the Improvement of Manufactures, Arts, &c. it will be most proper to examine, and hear the Opinions of those who are employed therein, and if any Clashings be in any Article, to hear both Sides, and then to judge upon the Whole; for the Trust reposed in the Society is very great, and if the Folly and Presumption of Men are in any Case more eminently mischievous and insufferable than in others, it is when they are concerned in Publick Affairs, and attempt to determine on Matters of which they are not

not capable of judging. *Nemo nascitur Artifex.*

So likewise, on all Questions concerning the Improvement of Husbandry, the Country Gentlemen, and those of landed Property, who are Members of the Society, should be most punctual in their Attendance, and not leave this first and most material of all Objects to the bungling Management and Determination of those, who, perhaps, never owned a single Acre of Land, nor traced a Plough in a Field, nor ever read a Line upon the Subject.

IF in the following Letters I have been mistaken in any Respect, I hope my good Intentions will plead my Excuse; and that it will be indulgently considered, that however I may have read upon the Subjects of which I have ventured to treat, or rather have been a Collector, I have had but very little Advantage, from either Practice, or Experience; without which, I believe, I may venture to say, it is almost

almost morally impossible, that any Knowledge whatsoever can be either absolutely perfect, or effectually useful.

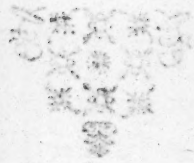
GORGES E. HOWARD.



SOME



GORGES E. HOWARD



SOME



SOME SCATTERED
PIECES
UPON
AGRICULTURE, &c.

TO MR. FAULKNER.

SIR,

Jan. 6th. 1770.

***S you have most laudably print-
ed in your diffusive Paper, those
most ingenious Letters upon In-
land Navigation, by Sir Lucius
O'Brien, Bart. and Major C. Vallancey;
give me Leave to trouble you with some
few Observations upon Agriculture, and
the Improvement of Husbandry; a Sub-
ject so connected with the former, that
they must go Hand in Hand, or they

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can never perfectly answer the good Intentions of the Promoters of both. My Letters shall be few and short; what I have to say has been mostly collected in a Course of Reading which I have of late pursued on this most useful and delightful Study; and is intended, as an Epitome of the most essential Principles of this first of Sciences and Arts, for the Benefit of those who may not have Leisure to read the several Authors on the Subject at large, with some few Observations of my own.

THAT Agriculture is now considered by almost every Nation in Europe as a Matter the most worthy of their Attention, appears from the Societies which have already been established, and are every Day establishing every where, and the prodigious Encouragements proposed and given for the Promotion of it.

THERE are at present in France no less than thirteen Societies existing for this Purpose, established by Royal Approbation, and these thirteen Societies have nineteen co-operating Societies belonging to them, as it may happen that a District may be too large for one Society to take Care of it.

Nor



NOR is it to be wondered at, it being now universally admitted, that Agriculture is the Source of Population and Wealth; the Foundation of every other Art, Profession or Business; the Support of States, and the Basis of Commerce and Independency.

AND in the Letters lately published on the present State of the French Nation, it appears from many Instances and most convincing Proofs (which would be too tedious here to mention) that this great Nation was either in a State of Glory or Declension, in Proportion to the Advancement or Depression of Husbandry; and that whenever any Manufactures were encouraged, until that first, great Manufacture of the Soil was complete, Poverty and Distress were the certain Consequences, and they became dependent on their Neighbours for Bread; and that it was from this Error, more than any Success of Arms against them, that they have been compelled to submit to almost every Peace which they have agreed to in the present Century.

THE Art of Agriculture is at present publickly taught in the Swedish, Danish and German Universities, whence the Service to their respective Countries will be rendered more effectual, as the speculative Parts so necessary to the Knowledge of this noble Science (for so I may with Safety call it) will be understood, as well as the practical.

BUT England alone exceeds all other Nations in the Improvement of Husbandry, and the infinite Advantages of it are becoming every Day more and more manifest; but of all the Nations upon the Face of the Globe, there is not one to whom it would be more advantageous than it would be to this, for Reasons which shall be reserved for a future Letter on this Subject.

AGRICOLA.

To

TO Mr. FAULKNER.

S I R,

Jan. 16th. 1770.

IN my first Letter upon Husbandry, I promised to endeavour to shew, that there is not any Kingdom in Europe to which the Promotion and Improvement of Agriculture would be more truly advantageous than to this our Country of Ireland; and for that Purpose, I shall first mention what its real, great Patriot, the late Dean Swift, has mentioned on this Subject.

“ THE cultivating and Improvement
 “ of Land (says he) is certainly a Subject
 “ worthy of the highest Enquiry in any
 “ Country, but especially in ours, wherewe
 “ are so strangely limited in every Branch
 “ of Trade that canbe of Advantage to us,
 “ and utterly deprived of those which are
 “ of the greatest Importance, so that I think
 “ little is left us, besides the cultivating our
 “ Soil, encouraging Agriculture, and mak-
 “ ing great Plantations of Trees, that we
 “ might not be under the Necessity of send-
 “ ing for Corn and Bark from England, and
 “ Timber from other Countries. This would
 “ increase

“ increae the Number of our Inhabitants,
 “ and help to confume our natural Products
 “ as well as Manufactures at Home. And I
 “ fhall never forget what I once ventured
 “ to fay to a great Man in England, that
 “ few Politicians, with all their Schemes, are
 “ half fo useful Members of a Common-
 “ wealth, as an honeft Farmer, who by
 “ skilfully draining, fencing, manuring and
 “ planting, hath increafed the intrinsic Va-
 “ lue of a piece of Land, and thereby done
 “ a perpetual Service to his Country, which
 “ it is a great Controverfy whether any of
 “ the former ever did fince the Creation of
 “ the World; but no Controverfy at all,
 “ that ninety-nine in a hundred have done
 “ Abundance of Mifchief.”

It has been computed by a famous
 Writer, in England, upon Hufbandry, that
 a Piece of Ground confifting of three fquare
 Miles, or 1920 Acres of commonly good
 Land, will furnifh Food for 870 Perfons.
 Now Ireland contains about eleven Millions
 and an Half of Acres, Irish Plantation
 Meafure, which, according to the differ-
 ent Admeafurement of Land in the two
 Kingdoms, are above eighteen Millions
 and an Half of Englifh Statute Meafure, of
 which not one Half is at all cultivated
 and

and the other Half by no Means completely. The Inhabitants at present are estimated at about two Millions ; what a prodigious Increase of Population, Wealth and Strength might, on the Improvement of Husbandry, and the promoting of Cultivation, be produced in this Kingdom, every Man who understands Figures may easily calculate ; wherefore an antient English Writer observes, “ that a single uncultivated Acre is a real physical Evil in a State.” *

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—WHENCE

* The Premiums lately proposed by the *Dublin Society*, to the Renters of Lands, for reclaiming unprofitable Mountain and Bog, if they were to be doubled, would in Time, make this a flourishing Kingdom. They are at present too small, for these poor Tenants, who have no Capital, and Money could not be better applied. Men of Estates, if they improve their Lands, will have sufficient Premium, in the Encrease of the Value, and enlarging their Inheritances : and do they not also gain, by what the *Renters* of their Lands improve ? But the Premiums to the poor Renters of Land are by one Half too small ; and the Requisites to be afterwards performed, in order to get them, too great. If their whole Expences were to be paid the Publick would gain. *Magis prodigii Simile est, quod accidit, ut res corporibus nostris, vitæque utilitati maxime conveniens, minimam consummationem haberet, idque sperneretur genus amplificandi retinendique patrimonii, quod omni crimine curet.*

COLIMELLA de Re Rust. in Proem.

—WHENCE it appears, that Cultivation, under Creation, is the Business of the highest Importance and Advantage to Society; it is the natural, the only Root, from whence the Manufactures, and all Improvement in Crafts, with their various Materials, all Arts and all Sciences can arise; these are the Branches, the Flowers and the Fruit; but Culture is the Root and Trunk which yields Nourishment, Sap and Growth to the Whole.

It is peculiarly important to a commercial Nation, the Support of its Trade depending on its Manufactures, those Manufactures on the Rate of Labour, and the Rate of Labour, in a great Degree, on the Price of the Necessaries of Life.

AND Cicero, in his Advice to his Son Marcus, says thus: "Of all the profitable Arts, none is preferable to Agriculture, no one more useful, and nothing more worthy of a Man in a free State."

BUT whilst we and all the Nations of Europe are thus labouring to bring this glorious Work to Perfection, it never can be completed, nor that wish'd for Utility arise

arise to the Publick from all the Experiments that can be made in it, until the necessary Instruments which are to be used in it shall first be perfected, an Undertaking which corresponds so much with the Views of the first, that it seems to be almost an inseparable Consequence; and so sensible are they of it in England, that large Premiums and Bounties are offered by those respectable Patriots who form the Society of Arts, &c. established at London, for the making of Implements for facilitating the Practice of Agriculture, and accordingly a Variety of different Machines have been sent them in Consequence thereof.

THIS puts me in Mind of a remarkable Story in the Roman History, the particular Period of Time in which it happened I do not well recollect, but that it was during the Time of the Common-wealth: A Farmer being charged with Witchcraft, for that his Fields bore three-fold Crops, and that such an Increase attended his Industry, which nothing but Sorcery could have effected, was cited before the People in the *Forum*; he accordingly appeared, and brought with him all his Utensils and Implements of Husbandry in
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the highest Order with his large, fat Oxen, attended by a Parcel of healthy, lusty Sons and Daughters, and pointing to the Whole, said " These, O Romans! are my Charms." He was acquitted with Honour, and dismissed with Reward.

SUCH a Genius we have now among us, Mr. John Wynne Baker, encouraged by the Dublin Society, and in their Service, who is not only improving, but creating Instruments of Husbandry; and the Benefits arising therefrom have been so diffused through every Quarter of the Kingdom, that it is gaining every where a different, yea a new Appearance of Beauty.

AGRICOLA.

To

To the P R I N T E R.

Feb. 20th, 1770.

I H A V E endeavoured to shew in my last Letter, that however earnest the Zeal for Agriculture and the Improvement of Husbandry may be in any Country, yet that it cannot be brought to that Degree of Perfection which it's Friends would wish for, without a high Degree of Perfection also in the several necessary Machines and Implements for carrying on this important Work.

FOR this Purpose, it were to be wished, that Factories and public Repositories were to be established, under the Direction of the Dublin Society, in each of the most central Towns of the several Provinces of the Kingdom,

BUT now it may be objected, whence all the Artificers for these prodigious Works are to be produced? In answer, I will not say that it could be effected at once, yet in a little Time a Deal may be done, and skilful Husbandmen and ingenious Artificers of the Machines and Instruments

struments of Agriculture, be dispersed and established all over the Kingdom, by putting out Apprentices to learn the Practical Knowledge of Husbandry, and the Fabrication of the Machines and Implements thereof, in order to supply the distant Parts of the Kingdom with skilful Husbandmen, Mechanicks and Workmen.

COWLEY, that most excellent Writer, speaking of a rural Life and Husbandry, says thus: " There is no other Sort of Life
 " that affords more Branches of Praise to
 " a Panegyrist; the Utility of it to a
 " Man's self; the Usefulness or rather
 " the Necessity of it to all the rest of
 " Mankind; the Innocence, the Pleasures,
 " the Antiquity, the Dignity; the Lucre
 " of it is not, now, so great in our Na-
 " tion, as arises from the Merchandize
 " and Trade of the City; we have no
 " Men now fetched from the Plough to
 " be made Lords, as they were in Rome
 " to be made Consuls and Dictators; the
 " Reason of which is from an evil Cus-
 " tom amongst us, that no Men put their
 " Children to be bred up Apprentices
 " in Husbandry, as in other Trades, but
 " such who are so poor, that when they
 " come to be Men, they have not
 " where-

“ wherewithal to set up in it ; and so can
 “ only farm some very small Parcel of
 “ Ground, whose Rent devours all but
 “ the bare Subsistence of the Tenant ;
 “ whilst they who are Proprietors of the
 “ Land are either too proud, or for Want
 “ of Education, too ignorant, to improve
 “ it, though the Means of doing it be as
 “ easy and certain in this as in any other
 “ Tracts of human Commerce. If there
 “ were always 2 or 3000 Youths for 7 or
 “ 8 Years bound to this Profession, that
 “ they might learn the whole Art of it,
 “ and afterwards be enabled by a mode-
 “ rate Stock to be Masters in it, there is
 “ no Doubt we should see as many Alder-
 “ mens Estates made in the Country, as
 “ now we do out of all Kinds of Mer-
 “ chandizing in the City, and there is no
 “ Reason why Agriculture should not be
 “ taught young Persons, as any other
 “ Trade and Occupation in Life. There
 “ are many Ways to be rich, and which
 “ is better, there is no Possibility to be
 “ poor, without such Negligence as can
 “ neither have Excuse nor Pity.” *

—THESE

* COLUMELLA on this Subject, Lib. 1. writes thus.
 “ Satis mirari non possum, quod animi sibi quisque
 fomatorem

—THESE are the Words of the famous Cowley. If then 200 Boys were to be bound as Apprentices in each of the four Provinces, 150 to skilful Husbandmen and Farmers, and the remaining 50 to Artificers of the Machines and Instruments of Husbandry in the several Branches thereof, for seven Years, at 12l. yearly each, for their entire Maintenance, Diet, Lodging and Cloathing, during their Service, and to keep up a Succession of them; what a populous, wealthy Kingdom might we not expect to see ere many Years would pass.

Now

formatorem præceptoremque virtutis é cætu sapientium arceffat; sola res rustica, quæ sine dubitatione proxima et quasi consanguinea sapientiæ est, tam discipulis egeat quam Magistris. Adhuc enim scholas rhetorum, et geometrarum, musicorumque, vel, quod magis mirandum est, contemptissimorum vitiorum officinas, gulosiùs condiendi cibos, et luxuriosiùs fercula struendi, capitumque & capillorum concinnatores non solum esse audiui, sed & ipse vidi: Agricolationes neque doctores qui se profiterentur, neque discipulos cognovi. Cum etiam, si prædictarum artium civitas egeret, tamen, sicut apud priscos, florere posset respublica; nam sine ludicris artibus, atque etiam sine causidicis, olim satis felices fuere futuræque sunt urbes; at sine Agricultoribus nec consistere mortales, nec ali posse manifestum est.

Now, this would be an annual Expence of 9600l. and if a Fund for this Purpose were to be provided for by Parliament, could so much of the Publick Money be better disposed of?

THEN, Husbandry (as a late ingenious Author observes) affords the only true Seminary for Soldiers and Mariners, as it enures Men from their early Youth to Heats, Colds, Fatigue and Labour, and is one main Cause of Health and Strength; besides, the Produce of the Husbandman's Labours is the only Merchandise which all the World is obliged to deal in.

AND if certain Portions of Land were also to be taken at the Publick Expence in every of the said Provinces, for no other Purpose but the making of Experiments in Husbandry, and they to be annually published, the Knowledge, as well scientificall, as practical, which must then arise of Course, would without any other Profit, largely overpay the Expence of the Rent.

I FEAR

I FEAR I have tired you, but in my next Letter I hope to finish all I have to say upon this, of all, most interesting Subject.

AGRICOLA.

To

To the PRINTER.

S I R,

Feb. 24, 1770.

I HOPE in my three former Letters (which you have been so indulgent as to insert) I have fully shewn the prodigious great Advantage that the Improvement of Husbandry would be to this, but infant Kingdom in this Business, with such Means as have occurred to me, that may be necessary for the effectual Promotion thereof. But this grand Object is not attended to, near as much as it ought to be, nor could any Thing (as a late ingenious Author says) make us forget these Truths, but because they are common ones, Mankind being naturally fond of Novelty, and too apt to prefer the showy to the useful, or over-look what is near, in order to speculate upon that which is distant; yet it is better to prefer plain, obvious, and simple Truths, as proving in the End most useful, as well as most universal.

In consequence of the Mistake which I have here mentioned, it is, that Mankind seems to apply itself more to the Productions of Art than those of Nature, and hence it happens, that the primitive Source

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of Wealth, and the vital Support of no less than the whole human Species, are both consigned to the Management of mean, ignorant People.

To ask one Question, which (as another Author says) will be entering immediately on the Subject; Is there any Profession or Business which ought to be advanced to the Height it is capable of, before others are encouraged which draw off the working Hands from the former? The Question is clear, precise and determinate: Agriculture, that greatest of all Manufactures, * ought to flourish to the full Cultivation of the Land, before what are *commonly* called Manufactures take Place, as Articles of Trade and Commerce; and after Cultivation is at its Height, those Manufactures ought first to be encouraged, which work upon Materials of our own Growth; and lastly, those which employ foreign Materials. †

OTHER-

* *One Million's worth of Things vendible (says Montesquieu) being Productions from our own Earth, and raised from our own Hands at Home, will, when exported, bring a Nation more real Gain, than the Sale of Three Millions worth of Goods in Manufactures, where the Materials manufactured are purchased from Abroad.*

† Nor is it to be expected that any Manufacture can arise at Perfection in a Country, where there is
no

OTHERWISE, we begin with the wrong End; the true Gradation or Progreſſion being thus; Agriculture,

Manufactures,

Wealth,

Luxury,

Fine Arts.

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no foreign Trade for it, but the Conſumption confined to the Natives, and of Courſe no Rivalſhip; ſo likewiſe, if any of the Materials are not to be had at Home, and that there is a Reſtraint of Importation from the Countries of which they are the Produce, as we may then but have them at the third or fourth Hand, and often but in ſmall Degree of Purity: neither is it to be hoped, that they will ever thrive in chief or great Cities, where Proviſions and of Courſe Labour are dear, Combinations among Workmen moſt frequent, with Idleneſs, Diſſipation and Riot. Wherefore, our chief Attentions ſhould be directed to Objects where we can proſper, *Corn and Linen*; for the Exportation of the firſt of which, there is at preſent a parliamentary Premium, (would it were perpetual) the other is Duty free. So that, if the Numbers now employed at them, were five fold, their Products never would want Vent.—The manufacturing of Woollen Cloth in the *Country*, from 5s. 8d. to 10s. a Yard, is very worthy of Encouragement, which would not only conſume Abundance of our own Wool (which is only uſed in this Sort of Cloth) but prevent our Enemies from getting it. O! that England would at length ſee their own Intereſt, and let us but export theſe low-prized Cloths.—The Fiſheries alſo are moſt worthy of Attention. Another material Conſideration is, whether there be any Likelihood of much Succeſs in a Manufacture, which requires a continued Bounty for Years to ſupport it.

For this Reason, it hath often troubled me, in this scarce quarter peopled Country, when I have heard of the Number of Boys, (in a constant Succession) who are employed in Drawing-Schools, as several of them, especially of those who are intended for Painting and Sculpture, may, and in all Likelihood, will be Hands either absolutely lost, or a Burthen to Society; for (as that most elegant and judicious Writer, the Author of the Essay on the fine Arts, says no Genius, of what Kind soever, can emerge, without Examples to imitate, and Models to study; for though it be true, that every Poet must be born one, yet it is as true, that every Poet must be taught. As Genius will do Nothing without Study, so Study will do Nothing without Genius.

Now, the Fact is (says he) we have no Opportunities, no Examples, no Masters, no Models for Painting; we never see an Antique; we have no Virgils, no Homers, no Classics in Design; Printing is not here available; Rome is the Repository of Medals, and therefore the School of Artisans.

It is true, that there are some Originals here in the Hands of private Persons, but not to be got at to be imitated. In Italy
and

and France there are publick Galleries for the Purpose.

BUT is not this manifested every Day beyond all Doubt, from the very little Progress which has been made in the Arts I have mentioned, visible even to the least skilful in them? as for real Judges, I think, I may with Safety say, there is not one in fifty Thousand.

BUT in case it were possible that a few should arrive at Excellence here, (which for the Reasons before given, cannot well be expected) what Encouragement could they hope to get among us? They of large Fortunes, who reside in this Kingdom, and who have any ready Cash to enable them to indulge a Taste this Way, are far from being sufficient for the Encouragement of Genius; wherefore, it may be reasonably supposed, that such Proficients would quickly seek some kinder Soil; so that we should only have the Honour of their being born among us, and perhaps, they might themselves deny us even that; such Instances have been.

WHEREFORE, I have often with regret, reflected on the Sums which have been given from Time to Time, since the Institution of the Dublin Society, in Bounties,

ties, for ingenious Inventions, or Improvements in those of the fine Arts as tend to Luxury, more than to Use, and which have, too often, expired with the Gift, * or for Matters which have not been really worthy of Attention; the one Half of which, if, from the Beginning, it had been applied to encourage the Improvement of uncultivated Mountain and Bog, in the Manner I have before mentioned, by this Time, whole Tracts would have been cultivated, which would have been a permanent Acquisition of Population and Wealth to the Kingdom.

COULD we but exhibit in our Society Rooms (as we do Pictures and Busts) the cultivated verdant Hills, and the luxuriant Lawns and Meads which have been (I may say) created here of late from the Improvements in Agriculture, in Consequence of the Lessons, scientific and practical, of that ingenious Gentleman, Mr. Baker, of whom I have before spoken, and of whom the Society of Arts in London, as well as our Society, have so often made such honourable mention, and whom the former have of late presented with a Gold Medal,

we

* Some of these alledged Inventions might have been former Methods long since exploded, for to such Impositions, the Judges on these Matters, if they should be unskilled, are undoubtedly liable.

we should never endure that the finest Arts that ever existed should be placed in the least Degree of Competition with that first and principal Object, the Improvement of Husbandry, and from which the rest (I hope it has been shown) must follow of Course.

Now to conclude, if Ireland (as it has been said) contains eighteen Million and an Half of Acres, English Statute Measure, and that near one Half of them are waste and uncultivated, and the other Half very far from being fully improved, should not the Cultivation of those Acres be the material Object of our Attention and Care? And to consider, whether all the Hands employed in Manufactures, Arts, &c. to the Amount of those necessary for such Culture, are not employed to the Detriment of the State, provided, if they were otherwise employed than they are at present, it would be in the Purposes of such a Cultivation. *

I am, SIR, &c.

GORGES E. HOWARD.

* See the *Farmer's Letters*, *Hart's Essay on Husbandry*, and the *present State of France*.

F I N I S.

